

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SAM-01

SAB-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 /138 W

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O 261442Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8645

DIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7291

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PMIL, LE, IS, XF

SUBJECT: LEBANON AWAITS ISRAELI RETALIATION

1. LOCAL ANXIETY MOUNTS AS LEBANON AWAITS VIOLENT ISRAELI RESPONSE
TO FATAH OPERATION AT NAHARIYA. ISRAELI SHELLING OF LEBANESE BORDER
AREAS JUNE 25 JENERALLY VIEWED AS PRELUDE TO ANTICIPATED REPRISAL
ATTACK. LEBANESE ARMY G-2 REPORTS ISRAELIS FIRED ABOUT 145
ARTILLERY AND MORTAR ROUNDS DURING AFTERNOON AND EVENING AS
FOLLOWS:

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1015Z: 25 RDS IN VALLEY BETWEEN HULA AND MAYS AL JABAL
(3310N3531E);

1430Z: 37 RDS IN AT TIRI WOODS (3308N3524E), 7 RDS BETWEEN
RSHAF AND DIBIL (3307N3522E);

1440Z: WT RDS S OF HARIS (3310N3523E);

1500Z: 50 RDS IN VALLEY NW OF JWAYYA (3314N3519E).

OCCASIONAL MG FIRE IN SCATTERED AREAS NOTED. NO RPT NO
CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE REPORTED AS ACCORDING G-2 ISRAELI FIRE
DIRECTED OUTSIDE VILLAGES.

2. FATAH, CLAIMING FULL CREDIT FOR NAHARIYA RAID, ISSUED HARD-
LINE "POLITICAL STATEMENT" TOUTING "ARMED STRUGGLE" AS SOLE AVENUE
TO VICTORY (FBIS KYRENIA P25 1955Z JUN74). MEANWHILE, REFUGEE
CAMPS ON HIGH ALERT. PRESS REPORTS EVACUATION OF CAMP
DWELLERS IN SIDON AREA--AS WELL AS OF LEBANESE CIVILIANS LIVING
NEARBY--JUNE 25.

3. ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S DECLARATION HOLDING GOL ACCOUNTABLE
FOR NAHARIYA HAS HEIGHTENED FEARS OF LEBANESE OFFICIALS ABOUT
IMPENDING ISRAELI RETALIATION. CAUGHT BETWEEN DOMESTIC IMPER-
ATIVE OF PUBLICLY SUPPORTING PALESTINIANS AND LATEST ARAB GOVTS'
OFFERS TO SEND MILITARY FORCES TO LEBANON (BEIRUT PRESS CITES
SADAT OFFER TO SUPPLY AIRCRAFT AND SYRIAN WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE
MOBILE AIR DEFENSE NETWORK), GOL'S CURRENT OPTIONS ARE LIMITED
AND IT WILL BE WALKING SHAKY TIGHTROPE TO CAIRO, WHERE URGENT
MEETING OF ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL SCHEDULED TO CONVENE JULY 1, AT
KUWAITI INITIATIVE, TO DISCUSS LEBANESE/PALESTINIAN SECURITY
PROBLEM. LEBANESE HOPES OF USING SESSION TO ENLIST ARAB SUPPORT
FOR RENEWED EFFORT TO DISSUADE FEDAYEEN FROM OPERATING AGAINST
ISRAEL FROM LEBANESE TERRITORY MAY COLLIDE SQUARELY WITH
APPARENT KUWAITI OBJECTIVE OF FORCING AFFIRMATIVE DECISION TO DES-
PATCH ARAB ARMED FORCES TO LEBANON.

4. COMMENT: PRESIDENT FRANGIE HAS NEVER SOUGHT OUTSIDE ARAB
MILITARY FORCES AND, OUR VIEW, IS NOT RPT NOT LIKELY TO REQUEST
THEM AT THIS TIME. IN THIS REGARD, WE HAVE REPORT FROM SOURCES CLOSE
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TO PRESIDENT THAT HE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY FATAH INSouciance IN
STAGING NAHARIYA RAID BECAUSE, ONLY HOURS BEFORE ON JUNE 24, HE HAD
MET FOR FIRST TIME IN OVER A YEAR WITH 'ARAFAT AND RECEIVED
CUSTOMARY ASSURANCES THAT FEDAYEEN "WOULD DO NOTHING TO ENDANGER
LEBANESE SAFETY AND SECURITY."
HOUGHTON

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NNN

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